United Nations A/63/65

General Assembly

Distr.: General
18 March 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Item 35 of the preliminary list*
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report was mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/112 of 17 December 2007 and pertains to the transmittal of information from the administering Powers called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations.

* A/63/50.

08-27618 (E) 040408

1. Under the terms of Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations, States Members of the United Nations that have or assume responsibilities for the administration of Territories whose peoples have not yet attained a full measure of self-government undertake to transmit regularly to the Secretary-General information relating to the economic, social and educational conditions in the Territories for which they are respectively responsible, other than those Territories to which Chapters XII and XIII apply. In addition, the General Assembly, in several resolutions, the most recent of which was resolution 62/112 of 17 December 2007, has requested the administering Powers concerned to transmit or continue to transmit to the Secretary-General the information prescribed in Article 73 *e* of the Charter, as well as the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned.

2. The table annexed to the present report provides the dates on which information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter was transmitted to the Secretary-General for the year 2007.

3. The information transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter generally follows the standard form approved by the General Assembly and includes information on geography, history and population and economic, social and educational conditions. The annual reports of the Territories also include information on constitutional matters, as appropriate. Additional information on political and constitutional developments on Tokelau is given by the representative of New Zealand during meetings of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

4. In compliance with the provisions of paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963 and other relevant resolutions of the Assembly, including in particular resolution 62/112, the Secretariat has continued to use the information transmitted in the preparation for the Special Committee of working papers on each Territory. The Special Committee has taken this information into account in formulating its decisions on these Territories, which are set forth in the relevant chapters of the Committee's report to the Assembly at its current session (see A/62/23). The report also contains an account of the action taken by the Special Committee in implementation of resolution 1970 (XVIII) (ibid., chap. VIII).

5. **Recommendation: The information received from the administering Powers on the Non-Self-Governing Territories will be used in the preparation of the working papers of the Secretariat and discussed by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples at its annual session.**

Annex

Dates of transmission of information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations and period covered[a]

	Information received in 2007		*Information received in 2008*	
	Date of transmission	*Period covered*	*Date of transmission*	*Period covered*
France				
New Caledonia[b]	18 January 2007	2006	9 January 2008	2007
New Zealand				
Tokelau	8 January 2007	2006	17 January 2008	2007
Spain				
Western Sahara[c]	—		—	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland				
All British Non-Self-Governing Territories	—		—	
Anguilla	9 January 2007	2006	16 January 2008	2007
Bermuda	11 January 2007	2006	15 January 2008	2007
British Virgin Islands	8 January 2007 15 January 2007	2006	9 January 2008	2007
Cayman Islands	15 January 2007	2006	9 January 2008	2007
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	8 January 2007 26 February 2007	2005-2006	9 January 2008	2007
Gibraltar	15 January 2007	2006	8 February 2008	2007
Montserrat	15 January 2007	2006	14 January 2008	2007
Pitcairn	8 January 2007	2006	9 January 2008	2007
Saint Helena	8 January 2007	2005-2006	30 January 2008	2007
Turks and Caicos Islands	8 January 2007	2006	9 January 2008	2007
United States of America				
American Samoa	4 January 2007	2001	15 January 2008	2007
Guam	4 and 5 January 2007	2004-2006	15 January 2008	2007
United States Virgin Islands	4 January 2007	2000-2006	15 January 2008	2007

[a] For a preliminary list of Territories to which the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960) applies, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Eighteenth Session, Annexes*, addendum to agenda item 23 (A/54/46/Rev.1), annex I.

[b] According to its resolution 41/41 A of 2 December 1986, the General Assembly "considers that, in the light of the provisions of Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV), New Caledonia is a Non-Self-Governing Territory within the meaning of the Charter".

[c] On 26 February 1976, the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations informed the Secretary-General that "the Spanish Government, as of today, definitely terminates its presence in the Territory of the Sahara and deems it necessary to place the following on record: ... (a) Spain considers itself henceforth exempt from any responsibility of an international nature in connection with the administration of the said Territory, in view of the cessation of its participation in the temporary administration established for the Territory ..." (A/31/56-S/11997). For the printed text, see *Official Records of the Security Council, Thirty-first Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1976*.

United Nations A/63/66

General Assembly

Distr.: General
19 March 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Item 52 of the preliminary list*
Sustainable development

Letter dated 14 March 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

In my capacity as Chairman of the Arab Group for the month of March 2008, and on behalf of the members of the League of Arab States, I have the honour to attach herewith the Arab Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change adopted by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment at its nineteenth session, held at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States in Cairo on 5 and 6 December 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text of this letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 52 of the preliminary list.

(*Signed*) Abdalmahmood Abdalhaleem **Mohamad**
Chairman of the Arab Group
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Sudan
to the United Nations

* A/63/50.

08-27848 (E) 260308 270308

Annex to the letter dated 14 March 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

[Original: Arabic]

Arab Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change

The Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment at its nineteenth session held at the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States on 5 and 6 December 2007 adopted the Arab Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change which constitutes a basis for future action and reflects the Arab position on how to address climate change issues. The text is as follows.

Bearing in mind the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and notably section II of Agenda 21, corresponding to chapters 9-22, regarding conservation and management of resources for development; chapter 33 regarding financial resources and mechanisms; chapter 34 on transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building with a view to helping developing countries to implement Agenda 21; the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol and the commitments contained therein; and the Marrakesh Accords, concluded at the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2001, which established three funds: the special climate change fund, the adaptation fund and the least developed countries fund,

Stressing the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, in particular principle 7 on the common but differentiated responsibilities of developed and developing countries, in which developed countries acknowledge the responsibility that they bear in view of the pressures their societies place on the global environment and of the technologies and financial resources they command, as well as principle 16 concerning the responsibility of the polluter to bear the cost of pollution; *stressing* paragraphs 14-23 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, on changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, and paragraphs 36-38 on climate change, which emphasize a commitment to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention, namely the stabilization of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent interference with the climate system within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities,

Noting that developed countries have accepted historic responsibility for the problem of climate change,

Recalling the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which identified a scientific consensus that climate change is a reality, and stated that temperatures had increased by an average of 0.76° C in the course of the twentieth century, during which period the sea level had risen by 17 centimetres; that a temperature increase of 2° C constitutes the critical stage, and that as a dry and arid region, the Arab region is one of those most exposed to the

potential impact of climate change such as the threat to coastal regions, increasingly acute drought and desertification, scarcity of water resources, the increasing salinity of groundwater, and the unprecedented spread of plagues, epidemics and diseases,

Aware that the potential effects of climate change could have negative repercussions for development in the Arab region, such as a decline in agricultural productivity, deterioration of vegetation cover, loss of biodiversity, a shortfall in the availability of food, and the threat posed to vital economic investments, and aware that climate change could have social consequences as people move and migrate from affected regions to other regions, whether within the same State or to neighbouring or other States, thereby placing further pressure on the environment and resources; and also that it could have consequences for public health owing to increasing air pollution, severe heat waves and the spread of gastric diseases,

Recognizing that addressing the potential effects of climate change requires international action and solidarity in the context of the goals of sustainable development; that the basis of such action should be the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities; that such action would benefit all States; that it should focus in particular on assistance to the developing countries that are most exposed to the effects of climate change; that it should consider the interests of developing countries that produce fossil fuels and in particular oil, whose economies will be adversely affected by measures addressing climate change, and the interests of developing countries whose economies will be affected by restrictions and procedures imposed on the exploitation of forests,

Stressing the importance of international action and solidarity in order to ensure that climate change does not result in further setbacks for human development,

Warning of the consequences of the tendency for developed countries to encourage developing countries to cultivate crops that produce biofuel instead of food, and *encouraging* the production of biofuels from organic waste,

Recognizing that, in the first half of the twenty-first century, there is no alternative to adapting to climate change and *noting* that developed and developing countries are not equal in their capacity to adapt,

Commending the Government of the Republic of Tunisia for hosting the International Solidarity Conference on Climate Change Strategies for the African and Mediterranean Regions, held in Tunis from 18 to 20 November 2007 under the high patronage of the President of the Republic, and *calling* on the international community to take into consideration the recommendations of the Conference, particularly as regards strengthening international solidarity to address the issues of climate change,

Recalling the Millennium Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Initiative in the Arab Region, 2004,

We, the ministers and heads of delegation participating in the nineteenth session of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment at the headquarters of the League of Arab States in Cairo on 5 and 6 December 2007, have decided to strive to achieve the following:

– To include policies addressing climate change issues in all sectors within national and regional sustainable development policies, in a manner compatible with sustainable economic growth and efforts to eradicate poverty;

– To adopt national and regional action plans addressing climate change issues in order to assess the potential effects and to put in place mitigation and adaptation programmes. Governments shall play a pivotal implementation role in coordination and cooperation with all concerned parties including scientific research centres, universities, civil society institutions and the private sector;

– Mitigation programmes shall focus on producing and using cleaner fuels; improving the efficiency of energy use in all sectors; diversifying energy sources in accordance with the prevailing economic and social conditions; expanding the use of cleaner production techniques and environmentally friendly technologies; extending economic incentives for the use of the most efficient products; bringing to a swift conclusion the World Trade Organization negotiations on defining lists of environmental goods on which customs restrictions can be lifted or reduced; and making use of carbon trading and markets;

– The process of adaptation to measures addressing climate change shall be fully consistent with economic and social development so as to achieve sustainable economic development and to eradicate poverty and shall be implemented through the creation and dissemination of methods and tools for assessing the effects and extent of climate change; the improvement of planning for the processes and procedures of adaptation, in a manner integrated with sustainable development; action to better understand the creation and dissemination of processes, methods and tools geared to achieving economic diversification, in order to increase the flexibility of economic sectors vulnerable to the effects of climate change;

– Adaptation programmes shall focus in particular on providing the necessary infrastructure to limit the anticipated risks. They shall include mechanisms for protection against those risks; greater efficiency in the management of natural resources, which can be achieved through the use of mechanisms for monitoring, control and early warning and the appropriate technologies; preparations in the event of disasters caused by climate change; capacity-building; the provision, improvement and exchange of information including climate information; the raising of public awareness and the creation of partnerships;

– The Arab States shall be prepared to host the adaptation fund and to provide logistical facilities to make it successful.

We call on the developed countries:

– To show a greater commitment to reducing greenhouse gases from all sectors, in view of their historic, present and direct responsibilities for climate change. The post-2012 period should include specific quantitative targets, and the policies and procedures undertaken to achieve these goals should not adversely affect sustainable development in developing countries;

– To expand their action in favour of developing countries so as to fulfil the agreed international commitments and to meet the challenges posed by climate

change. Such action should support the mechanisms currently in place, and in particular the clean development mechanism and the funding mechanisms and funds provided for by the Kyoto Protocol but not yet in force;

– To provide the necessary support for technology transfer, capacity-building and funding for a more thorough and comprehensive assessment of the potential effects of climate change on the most affected developing countries, including the Arab States, in order to determine priorities and implement programmes geared to mitigating and adapting to climate change, and to addressing the effects of measures taken in response to it.

We call upon the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change:

– To expedite the establishment of the three funds provided for in the Marrakesh Accords; to assert the right of developing countries, including those whose economies depend on the production and sale of fossil fuels, to benefit from the financial mechanisms provided for by the Kyoto Convention and by its Protocol, and to do so in a balanced way; to expedite the establishment of the adaptation fund under a management characterized by independence, in which developing countries are represented in accordance with the geographical distribution in force at the United Nations. The fund should have fixed or predictable resources and it should have its own systems and should operate in accordance with rules and criteria characterized by transparency and fairness, taking into consideration the priorities and interests of the citizens and peoples of developing countries suffering from climate change;

– To focus on the States mentioned in Annex I for commitments to limit emissions in the post-2012 period and to reject any new or voluntary commitments for developing countries, including the Arab States. Those countries are still in the development phase and need cleaner fossil fuels with improved efficiency and enhanced clean technologies to build their progress and development on a sustainable basis. Their first priority remains to eradicate poverty. Moreover, the developed countries did not achieve their own economic progress or their industrial development by relying on solar energy, wind energy or biofuels, but rather by relying on pollutant coal energy;

– To develop and transfer clean technology, including technologies for the production of clean fuels and carbon capture and storage; to work to implement carbon capture and storage in the context of clean development mechanism projects;

– To establish research centres for the study of climate change in developing regions, including the Arab world, which should study the impacts and challenges facing the citizens and peoples of developing countries as a result of climate change.

United Nations A/63/67

General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 March 2008

Original: English/Spanish

Sixty-third session
Item 38 of the preliminary list*
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories

Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is mandated by General Assembly resolution 62/115 and is a compilation of replies from Member States related to scholarships and training facilities available to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

* A/63/50.

08-28015 (E) 010408 080408

I. Introduction

1. By General Assembly resolution 845 (IX) of 22 November 1954, Member States were invited to extend to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories offers of facilities not only for study and training of university standard, but also for study at the post-primary level, as well as technical and vocational training of immediate practical value.

2. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 1696 (XVI) of 19 December 1961, offers extended under resolution 845 (IX) are communicated by the Secretariat to the administering Powers to enable them to give appropriate publicity to the offers in the Territories under their administration.

3. Information on scholarships offered by Member States under the programme is made available to prospective applicants. Reference to the programme is included in the thirty-third edition of the handbook entitled *Study Abroad*, published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

4. Under the terms of resolution 845 (IX) and subsequent resolutions,[1] the Secretary-General submits to the General Assembly each year a report containing detailed information on the offers made and the extent to which they were utilized.[2] The present report, which covers the period from 29 March 2007 to 20 March 2008, is submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of Assembly resolution 62/115 of 17 December 2007.

II. Scholarship offers and awards

A. Offering States

5. Over the years, the 59 States Members of the United Nations listed below have offered to make scholarships available for the use of inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories in response to the aforementioned resolutions:

> Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, Finland, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Yugoslavia.

6. One non-member State has also offered scholarships:

> Holy See.

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[1] The most recent resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on this question are resolutions 58/105, 59/130, 60/113, 61/124 and 62/115.

[2] For the most recent reports, see A/57/90 and Add.1, A/58/71, A/59/74, A/60/67, A/61/66 and A/62/68 and Add.1.

B. Offers and awards

Member States

Argentina

7. In a note verbale dated 26 February 2008, the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations informed the Secretariat of the following views of the Government of Argentina:

> The United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 2065 (XX) and in subsequent resolutions, and the Special Committee on Decolonization have described the question of the Malvinas Islands as a special and particular colonial situation involving a sovereignty dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, have established that the way to put an end to that situation is the peaceful and negotiated solution of the sovereignty dispute, and have requested both Governments to continue without delay the bilateral negotiations recommended by the General Assembly and the Special Committee.
>
> Despite the illegal British occupation, the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands are part of the Argentine national territory, and their inhabitants therefore have equality of access with the rest of the Argentine population to the Argentine public education system. This includes free education at the primary, secondary and tertiary/university levels, as well as to the benefits of the national scholarship programme offered by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Argentina.

Australia

8. In a communication dated 3 March 2008, the Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations advised the Secretariat that Australia, through the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), administers one scholarship programme that is applicable to the request. The Australian Leadership Award Scholarship is open to applicants from the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Tokelau, and one scholar from Tokelau has commenced her Master's of Health Administration under this programme.

Cuba

9. In a note verbale dated 7 February 2008, the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations informed the Secretary-General of the scholarships offered by the Government of Cuba to students of the Non-Self-Governing Territories for the period 2008-2009, as follows:

Number of students	*Subject*
1	Geology
1	Physical Engineering
1	Architecture
1	Degree in Mathematics
1	Degree in Physics

Number of students	*Subject*
1	Degree in Chemistry
2	Degree in Biology
1	Degree in Pharmacy
2	Forestry Engineering
1	Mechanical Engineering
1	Accounting
1	Mining
Total: 14	

Japan

10. In a note verbale dated 4 March 2008, the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations informed the Secretariat that the application and selection processes for scholarships granted by the Government of Japan were open to those who are natives or inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories among others, and no special consideration was given to them. In fiscal year 2008, a research student scholarship was granted to one student from Guam. Since fiscal year 2004, a Japanese studies student scholarship has been granted to one student from a territory administered by France.

Malaysia

11. In a note verbale dated 24 March 2008, the Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations informed the Secretary-General that Malaysia, through the Ministry of Higher Education, has offered scholarships for undergraduate and postgraduate studies through the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme to countries participating in the Programme, which include 4 of the 16 Non-Self-Governing Territories. These are: British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Monserrat and Turks and Caicos Islands. However, none of the students from the four territories concerned have been sponsored under the Programme since its implementation from 1992 to 2007. Malaysia also has not received any application or nomination for the undergraduate and postgraduate session in 2008 from the aforementioned territories.

12. Malaysia has also been offering short-term training courses for inhabitants of the above-mentioned Non-Self-Governing Territories through the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme. To date a total of five participants from Monserrat have participated in short-term courses that include broadcasting, fire-fighting and strategic management. The breakdown is as follows:

Institutions	*1997*	*2002*	*2004*	*2007*
National Institute of Public Administration			1	
Tn Razak Broadcasting Institute	1			1
Fire and Rescue Department of Malaysia		1		1
Total	**1**	**1**	**1**	**2**

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

13. In a letter dated 28 February 2008, the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations advised the Secretariat as follows:

> Education in the United Kingdom Overseas Territories is a domestic issue and therefore, under their Constitutions, is the responsibility of the locally elected Overseas Territory Government. It is a matter of domestic policy for each Overseas Territory Government to determine what proportion of its national budgets is spent on study and training.
>
> Citizens of the Overseas Territories, who are also British citizens, have access to the United Kingdom's further and higher educational institutions. Overseas Territories students are charged the home fee rate for further education and higher education courses at colleges and universities in the United Kingdom. This means that Overseas Territories' students are treated equally as students from the United Kingdom.
>
> In addition, the United Kingdom offered four Chevening scholarships (covering social work and social science, business information technology and education) to Overseas Territories students in 2007/08 as follows:

Territory	*Number of students*
Anguilla	1
Cayman Islands	1
Monserrat	1
Saint Helena	1

United States of America

14. In a communication dated 20 February 2008, the Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations advised the Secretariat that: (a) student-age students residing in the United States Non-Self-Governing Territories of Guam, American Samoa and the United States Virgin Islands enjoy the same scholarship opportunities as United States student-age residents in the fifty States of the United States. Consequently, the United States Government does not maintain a separate scholarship registry for student-age United States Non-Self-Governing Territories residents; and (b) student-age residents residing in the United States Non-Self-Governing Territories of Guam, American Samoa and the United States Virgin Islands may apply for scholarships in accredited institutions of higher learning in the respective United States Non-Self-Governing Territories or at any other United States institution of higher education.

C. Non-members

Holy See

15. In a note verbale dated 25 January 2008, the Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations informed the Secretary-General that the Holy See has

made scholarships available at the Pontifical Universities in Rome to 10 inhabitants of American Samoa, 3 inhabitants of the United States Virgin Islands, 1 inhabitant of Guam, and 2 inhabitants of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

III. Applications made through the United Nations

16. In accordance with the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 1696 (XVI), applications for scholarships received by the United Nations Secretariat from inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories are transmitted simultaneously to the offering States for consideration and to the administering Powers for information.

17. From 29 March 2007 to 20 March 2008, the Secretariat received no requests from students for information on the availability of scholarships.

IV. Conclusion

18. Scholarships and training facilities offered by Member States to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories represent a valuable contribution to their educational advancement.

United Nations A/63/68

General Assembly

Distr.: General
24 March 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Item 125 of the preliminary list*
Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Multi-year payment plans

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In its resolution 57/4 B, the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on Contributions concerning multi-year payment plans, and, in its resolutions 58/1 B, 59/1 B, 60/237 and 61/237, it reaffirmed that endorsement. In that connection, the Committee recommended that the Secretary-General be requested to provide information on the submission of such plans to the Assembly, through the Committee on Contributions. It also recommended that the Secretary-General be requested to submit an annual report to the Assembly, through the Committee on Contributions, on the status of the payment plans of Member States as at 31 December each year. The present report is submitted in compliance with those requests and provides information on payment plans/schedules submitted earlier by Liberia, Sao Tome and Principe and Tajikistan and on the status of implementation of those plans as at 31 December 2007.

The General Assembly may wish to take note of the present report and encourage Member States with significant arrears in contributions to consider submitting a multi-year payment plan.

* A/63/50.

08-28077 (E) 100408

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 56/243 A, the General Assembly, inter alia, recognized that multi-year payment plans, subject to careful formulation, could be helpful in allowing Member States to demonstrate their commitment under Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations to pay their arrears, thereby facilitating the consideration of applications for exemption by the Committee on Contributions, and requested the Secretary-General to propose guidelines for such multi-year payment plans through the Committee on Contributions.

2. After considering the report of the Secretary-General on multi-year payment plans[1] at its sixty-second session, in 2002,[2] the Committee on Contributions agreed that Member States should be encouraged to submit such plans, which constitute a useful tool for reducing their unpaid assessed contributions and a way for them to demonstrate their commitment to meeting their financial obligations to the United Nations. The Committee recognized in that regard that due consideration should be given to the economic position of Member States, as not all of them might be in a position to submit such plans, and recommended that multi-year payment plans should remain voluntary and should not be automatically linked to other measures.

3. The Committee also recommended that Member States considering a multi-year payment plan submit such plans to the Secretary-General for the information of other Member States and be encouraged to consult the Secretariat for advice in their preparation. In that context, it was suggested that the plans of Member States:

(a) Provide for annual payment of current-year assessments and a part of their arrears;

(b) Where possible, generally provide for the elimination of arrears within a period of up to six years.

4. The Committee further recommended that the Secretary-General be requested to provide information on the submission of payment plans to the General Assembly, through the Committee, and that the Secretary-General also be requested to submit an annual report to the Assembly, through the Committee, on the status of such plans as at 31 December each year.

5. The Committee also recommended that, for those Member States that are in a position to submit a payment plan, the Committee and the General Assembly take the submission of a plan and its status of implementation into account as one factor when they consider requests for exemption under Article 19 of the Charter.

6. In paragraph 1 of its resolution 57/4 B, the General Assembly endorsed the above conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Committee.[2] In its resolutions 58/1 B, 59/1 B, 60/237 and 61/237, the Assembly reaffirmed paragraph 1 of resolution 57/4 B. The first annual report of the Secretary-General on multi-year payment plans[3] was considered by the Assembly at its fifty-eighth

[1] A/57/65.

[2] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 11* (A/57/11), chap. IV.A, paras. 17-23.

[3] A/58/63.

session, the second annual report[4] at its fifty-ninth session, the third annual report[5] at its sixtieth session and the fourth annual report at its sixty-first session.[6] By its decision 62/545, the General Assembly decided to defer consideration of the fifth annual report[7] until its sixty-third session.

II. Submission of multi-year payment plans

7. Payment plans or schedules were submitted by Liberia in 2006 (its second), Georgia in 2003 (its fourth), Iraq in 2005 (its first), the Niger in 2004 (its first), Moldova in 2001 (its third), Sao Tome and Principe in 2002 (its first) and Tajikistan in 2000 (its first). As noted in the report of the Committee at its sixty-seventh session, both Georgia and the Niger had fully paid their arrears during the first half of 2007, thereby resulting in full implementation of their plans in advance of the deadline dates specified in the fifth annual report. The schedule last proposed by the Government of Moldova, as outlined in the fourth annual report, was fully implemented in 2005. A lump-sum payment by Iraq in 2005 also resulted in full implementation of its plan in advance of the deadline dates specified in the fourth annual report.

8. In the announcement concerning the sixty-eighth session of the Committee on Contributions, to be included in the *Journal of the United Nations* from 10 March to 27 May 2008, the Secretariat has invited Member States considering the submission of a multi-year payment plan to contact the Secretariat for further information. In addition, in the note issued pursuant to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 60/237 concerning the application of Article 19 of the Charter, attention was also drawn to the provisions of resolution 57/4 B. Should any other payment plans be submitted, related information will be provided in an addendum to the present report or in the report of the Committee to be submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-third session.

9. The plans submitted by Sao Tome and Principe and Tajikistan had durations of 8 and 11 years, respectively. For the purposes of the present report, payments are taken to include cash payments by the Member States concerned, together with the application of any credits to their accounts arising during the period concerned. Related information is provided below.

Liberia

10. In a letter dated 12 July 2005, the National Transitional Government of Liberia submitted a payment schedule by which it proposed to make a contribution in the amount of $50,000 every two months, beginning in October 2005. In a letter dated 19 May 2006, the Government of Liberia submitted a revised payment plan taking into account the current level of national revenues and priorities. The new plan called for quarterly payments starting in June 2006. The payment schedules are as follows:

[4] A/59/67.
[5] A/60/66.
[6] A/61/68.
[7] A/62/70.

(United States dollars)

	Schedule proposed in	
	2005	*2006*
2005	100 000	—
2006	[a]	150 000
2007	[a]	[b]

[a] Payment of $50,000 every two months beginning in October 2005.
[b] Payment proposals to be submitted annually.

11. In the letter transmitting the payment plan of 19 May 2006, the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Liberia to the United Nations had indicated that the Permanent Mission would submit a revised payment plan for 2007 in January 2007. At its sixty-seventh session, a representative of Liberia informed the Committee that a revised multi-year payment plan would be submitted beginning in July 2007. However, as at the date of the writing of the present report, the revised plan has not yet been submitted.

Sao Tome and Principe

12. Under cover of his letter of 17 May 2002 addressed to the President of the General Assembly, the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Sao Tome and Principe to the United Nations submitted the calendar of future payments as follows:

(United States dollars)

	Payment
2002	27 237
2003	42 237
2004	59 237
2005	74 237
2006	89 237
2007	114 237
2008	134 237
2009	153 752

13. If fully implemented, the schedule proposed by the Government of Sao Tome and Principe would involve payments totalling $694,411. If that amount is received during the period from 2002 to 2009, it will reduce the outstanding assessed contributions of Sao Tome and Principe at the end of 2009 to its total assessments during the period from 2008 to 2009 plus $37,105.

Tajikistan

14. In his letter of 15 September 2000 to the President of the General Assembly, the Prime Minister of Tajikistan indicated that his Government had paid $65,250.76 in 2000 and proposed a plan for the phased reduction of its arrears, as follows:

(United States dollars)

	Payment
2000	65 251
2001	67 822
2002	67 822
2003	67 822
2004	67 822
2005	67 822
2006	203 466
2007	203 466
2008	203 467
2009	203 467
2010	203 467

15. If fully implemented, the schedule proposed by the Government of Tajikistan would involve payments totalling $1,421,694. If that amount, which has already been exceeded, had been received during the period from 2000 to 2010, it would have reduced the outstanding assessed contributions of Tajikistan at the end of 2010 to $1,259,375 plus its total assessments during the period from 2008 to 2010.

Other Member States

16. No other Member States have so far submitted payment plans or schedules for the elimination of their arrears.

III. Status of payment plans of Member States as at 31 December 2007

17. The status of implementation of the most recent payment plans submitted by Liberia, Sao Tome and Principe and Tajikistan as at 31 December 2007 is summarized in the table which follows, in United States dollars. The plans proposed by Georgia, Iraq, Moldova and the Niger have been excluded, as those Member States had made the payments envisaged in their payment plans and no longer fell under the provisions of Article 19 of the Charter.

Status of payment plans as at 31 December 2007

(United States dollars)

	Payment plan	*Assessments at 31 December*	*Payments/ credits*	*Outstanding at 31 December*
Liberia				
1999				1 147 524
2000		31 506	70 192	1 108 838
2001		16 166	630	1 124 374
2002		17 137	5 465	1 136 046
2003		17 124	1 636	1 151 534
2004		20 932	2 899	1 169 567
2005		24 264	202	1 193 629
2006	150 000	23 024	100 453	1 116 200
2007		32 074	100 660	1 047 614
Sao Tome and Principe				
1999				570 783
2000		13 543	48	584 278
2001		14 254	157	598 375
2002	27 237	15 723	29 146	584 952
2003	42 237	17 124	929	601 147
2004	59 237	20 932	1 559	620 520
2005	74 237	24 264	202	644 582
2006	89 237	23 024	453	667 153
2007	114 237	32 074	810	698 417
2008	134 237			
2009	153 752			
Tajikistan				
1999				2 436 208
2000	65 251	63 507	205 389	2 294 326
2001	67 822	18 727	296 251	2 046 802
2002	67 822	22 205	306 961	1 765 046
2003	67 822	19 439	296 628	1 487 857
2004	67 822	26 183	400 955	1 113 085
2005	67 822	29 111	65 957	1 076 239
2006	203 466	26 583	107 184	995 638
2007	203 466	39 106	320 500	714 244
2008	203 467			
2009	203 467			
2010	203 467			

18. The Government of Tajikistan has once again significantly exceeded the payments and credits for the period from 2000 to 2007 foreseen in its schedule. Payments and credits totalling $1,999,825 were applied during that period, compared with the anticipated payments totalling $811,293 for those years set out in its schedule. In fact, the payments and credits applied already exceed the total amount foreseen in Tajikistan's schedule. Were the Government of Tajikistan nevertheless to make the payments currently indicated in its schedule for the period from 2008 to 2010 (a total of $610,401), its outstanding assessed contributions at the end of 2010 would amount to $103,843 plus the amount of its assessments during the period from 2008 to 2010.

19. Payments by the Government of Sao Tome and Principe foreseen for the period from 2002 to 2007 in its schedule of payments ($406,422) significantly exceeded the amounts actually received and applied in those years ($33,099). As a result, were the Government of Sao Tome and Principe to make the payments currently indicated in its schedule for the period from 2008-2009 ($287,989), its outstanding assessed contributions at the end of 2009 would amount to its assessments during the period from 2008-2009 plus $410,428.

20. As regards Liberia, outstanding assessed contributions at 31 December 2007 amounted to $1,047,614. Payments in 2006 and 2007 have both fallen short of the revised payment plan submitted in 2006.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

21. **The General Assembly may wish to take note of the present report and encourage Member States with significant arrears in contributions to consider submitting a multi-year payment plan.**